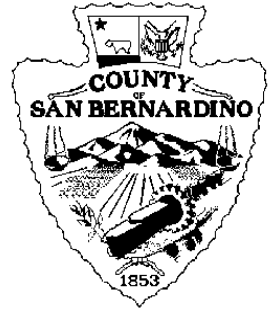


NEWS

From the Office of

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MORE FIREFIGHTERS, SENIOR HEALTH FAIR, HIGH DESERT GOVERNMENT CENTER ON SUPERVISORS AGENDA TUESDAY

SAN BERNARDINO — Among the items to be considered by the San Bernardino County Board of Supervisors on September 19 are a plan to hire 12 new firefighters, a proposal to allocate \$10,000 to an effort to educate seniors about healthy aging, and possible locations for a future High Desert Government Center.

Twelve New Firefighters

The Supervisors will consider a proposal to establish 12 new firefighter positions in the County Fire Department. The positions include three engineers and nine firefighter/paramedics. The three engineers would supplement fire staffing in Lucerne Valley, while the other nine positions would be distributed evenly in Spring Valley Lake, the Devore station at the base of the Cajon Pass and in Joshua Tree.

Board of Supervisors Chairman Bill Postmus said the firefighters were part of an ongoing effort to improve public safety in the county. "These positions are vital to the safety of our residents. I made a commitment to ensure that our public safety forces keep up with growth in our county. These new positions are part of that plan."

Healthy Aging Fair

In a separate item to be considered by the Board, Supervisor Postmus has proposed to allocate \$10,000 of discretionary funding to assist with the inaugural High Desert Seniors Healthy Aging Fair. The event, scheduled to be held at the Victorville Fairgrounds on October 6, is a joint effort of the Victor Valley Regional Council on Aging and the Department of Aging and Adult Services.

Supervisor Postmus said he was glad to be able to help to finally bring such an event to the High Desert. "Up until now, seniors had to drive to San Bernardino for events like this. This fair will bring important information to High Desert seniors, including information on topics ranging from healthcare to financial security." A key element of the fair will be a lunchtime address by the San Bernardino County District Attorney's Office's Identity Theft Unit.

New High Desert Government Center

Also on Tuesday's agenda is an item that would approve a request for proposals for future

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acquisition of property on which to construct of a proposed 60,000 square-foot County Government Center in the Victor Valley area. The RFP will be sent to the cities of Adelanto, Hesperia, and Victorville, and the Town of Apple Valley. Criteria to be considered in the selection process will include the size of the parcel, convenience of the location to customers, availability of mass transit, range and location of services required by County employees, availability and cost of infrastructure, and the cost of the property. Proposals are to be submitted no later than November 3, 2006.

“High Desert residents deserve a conveniently located facility where they can conduct business with the County,” said Supervisor Postmus. “Some of the services to be offered in our new facility are not even available in the High Desert. This facility will bring those services closer to High Desert residents.”

Departments anticipated to be located in this facility include: Agriculture/Weights and Measures, Assessor, Board of Supervisors, Fire Marshal, Human Resources, Land Use Services, Public Health (Environmental Health Services), Public Works, Registrar of Voters, Treasurer/Tax Collector, and Veterans Affairs.